

# Western Washington Watershed Protection and Restoration Branch



■ Riparian planting project



■ Yellow Island - Restoration of unique grasslands (photo by Peter Dunwiddie)



■ Replaced fish passage culvert

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## Background

The Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office has four habitat protection and restoration programs. These programs promote the restoration and stewardship of fish and wildlife habitat through on-the-ground activities, public education, involvement in watershed assessment and planning efforts, and identification of aquatic nuisance species threats. The programs differ by focusing in distinct geographic areas or funding specific types of projects. In addition, we have an aquatic nuisance species program.

## Who We Are

We are a dedicated team with experienced fish and wildlife biologists, and a geomorphologist. We are committed to protecting and restoring Western Washington's watersheds, native prairies, and marine ecosystems.

## Who We Serve

- Private citizens
- Public interest groups
- Tribes
- Conservation districts
- Local governments
- Salmon enhancement groups
- Education groups
- State agencies
- Other federal agencies

## What We Do

We develop partnerships with local communities and various organizations and agencies and work with them to address watershed problems in a coordinated manner through a voluntary, non regulatory approach.

Our program activities have helped the recovery of listed salmon, bull

trout, and other fish, wildlife and plant species.

Additionally, our restoration and protection activities may help to reduce future Endangered Species Act listings by promoting voluntary conservation activities.

We provide technical assistance with proposal development, agreement writing, project planning, regulatory requirements, and the monitoring of project effectiveness.

We promote implementation and monitoring of state of the art restoration techniques.

We provide needed funding and technical assistance to help family forest and small landowners comply with required State Forest Practices Rules. We assist with:

- Storm proofing and abandoning roads
- Culvert assessments
- Improving fish passage structures at road crossings

We assist with outreach and education activities to help promote improved stewardship.

We address aquatic nuisance species issues that threaten Washington's aquatic ecosystems and economy; as well as invasive species that threaten native grasslands and riparian areas.

## Division Programs

### *Jobs in the Woods (JITW)*

The JITW Watershed Restoration Program started 1994 and is part of the Northwest Forest Plan.

Program funds are used for watershed restoration projects. This program is not funded in the Presidents FY05 budget. Local partners are leaders in project planning, implementation and monitoring. JITW supports local communities and the development of a locally based restoration industry. Projects are on non-federal lands in four focus watersheds: Bear-Ellsworth (Willapa) Nooksack, Dungeness, and the Chewuch-Methow-Twisp.

Goals of JITW Program are to:

- Improve and restore watershed health
- Support natural resource dependent communities
- Promote and support community based restoration partnerships

### ***Puget Sound Program***

The Puget Sound Program is part of the FWS National Coastal Programs. In 1991, the Puget Sound Program, was established to protect, restore, and enhance the natural resources of Washington's coastal ecosystems.

To achieve results, we have focused on three areas of program activity:

- Planning and implementing coastal habitat restoration and protection projects;
- Assessing threats and status of coastal resources to assist with their management; and,
- Conducting outreach and education activities to help promote improved stewardship of Puget Sound's natural resources

Due to the highly impacted state of many Washington coastal ecosystems, our restoration work has focused increasingly on projects that are large in scope, technically complex, and involve multiple partnerships. A current example of this type of collaboration is the Puget Sound

Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program ([www.pugetsoundnearshore.org](http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org)) which includes multiple partners cooperating to restore and preserve critical nearshore habitat.

### ***Partners for Fish and Wildlife***

Through this nationwide program, established in 1987, we provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners to voluntarily restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitats on their lands. The program focuses on restoring habitat for:

- Migratory birds
- Anadromous fish
- Declining plant and animal species

In addition to restoring and enhancing riparian and in-stream habitats, we also focus on native prairies, grasslands, and oak savannas which support many at-risk plant, insect, and bird species. Through the program we also provide technical assistance to U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies in the field implementing key conservation programs, including Wetlands Reserve Program.

### ***Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program***

Significant runs of salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout have declined throughout the Chehalis Basin, the second largest watershed in Washington. Commercial and sport fishing have been greatly diminished in the area. In 1993, the Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program began working with partners to restore fish habitat and revitalize fish runs in the Chehalis Basin. In addition to funding solicited project proposals, program funds are provided annually to the Chehalis Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation for habitat restoration projects.

### ***Aquatic Nuisance Species Program***

Introductions of non-indigenous

species (NIS) have caused significant economic and ecological problems throughout North America. NIS are considered the number two threat to native species, often contributing to ESA listings, even promoting extinction of listed species. Our program provides financial and technical support to Washington State for implementing their aquatic nuisance species state management plan. The plan is focussed on the prevention and control of NIS species. Specific NIS issues we have addressed are the potential introduction of zebra mussels and mitten crabs, the introduction of NIS through ship ballast water exchange, and the control of spartina and green crabs.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Which project types are eligible for funding?***

They include:

- Culvert removal/upgrades
- Placement of key wood
- Road abandonment/obliteration/stormproofing
- Dike breaching
- Nonnative plant removal
- Reduce livestock impacts
- Watershed assessments
- Project monitoring
- Educational materials/signs
- Invasive species monitoring

### ***Which project types are not eligible for funding?***

- Required mitigation
- Required Habitat Conservation Plan activity
- Hatchery, broodstock, or artificial propagation operations and facilities
- Artificial pond creation
- Land acquisition
- Streambank hardening

### ***How much cost share do I need to contribute?***

A minimum of 25 percent cost share is required, 50 percent is preferred, except for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program where approximately 50 percent is required.